

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 04980 230926Z

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SUBJECT: SENGHOR APPLAUDS CARTER ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES
IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 135706

1. SUMMARY:

IN CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION CEREMONY, PRESIDENT SENGHOR NOTED APPROVINGLY "CONCERN FOR HUMAN DIGNITY" AND "RELIGIOUS FAITH" BEHIND PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICIES, AND SAID NEW ADMINISTRATION HAD WON "SYMPATHETIC ATTENTION" OF THIRD WORLD IN SPACE OF FEW MONTHS. HE NOTED US ACTIONS ON NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE WITH SATISFACTION, AND SAID PRESIDENT CARTER'S ACCORD ON COMMON FUND PERMITTED GREAT HOPE. REFERRING TO NON-INTERVENTION RESOLUTION VOTED AT LIBREVILLE OAU SUMMIT, SENGHOR URGED POWERS OF EAST AND WEST TO REACH ACCORD CONDEMNING INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS. SENGHOR CALLED US A DRIVING FORCE IN CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL. AND AGREED THAT AMERICAN-SENEGALESE COOPERATION HAD GREATLY DEVELOPED IN RECENT YEARS. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR PRESENTED LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO PRESIDENT SENGHOR IN SOLEMN CEREMONY AT NOON JULY 22 IN PRESENCE OF SIX MEMBERS OF COUNTRY TEAM AND SENIOR SENEGALESE OFFICIALS. FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS (AS CABLED REFTEL), PRESIDENT SENGHOR RESPONDED WITH OBSERVATION
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 04980 230926Z

THAT PRESIDENT CARTER, IN SEVERAL MONTHS, HAS BEEN ABLE TO ATTRACT "SYMPATHETIC ATTENTION" OF THIRD WORLD, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA. SENGHOR NOTED THAT "AS SOON AS HIS ELECTION," PRESIDENT CARTER HAD DECIDED TO ELABORATE A NEW POLICY FOR AFRICAN CONTINENT, SOMETHING WHICH HAD NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE. HE CITED WITH APPROVAL "CONCERN FOR THE DIGNITY OF MAN" AND "SOLID RELIGIOUS

FAITH" WHICH LAY BEHIND PRESIDENT'S POLICIES.

3. SENGHOR NOTED WITH SATISFACTION "THE URGENT DEMARCHES WHICH THE FIVE GREAT WESTERN POWERS HAVE MADE TO LEAD MR. JOHN VORSTER...TO ABOLISH APARTHEID AND, AS EARLY AS THIS YEAR, TO ACCEPT THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE MANIBIAN PEOPLE." SENGHOR ALSO NOTED US SUPPORT FOR UK EFFORTS "TO LEAD MR. IAN SMITH TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE TO RECOVER THEIR INDEPENDENCE" WITH EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL WITHOUT DISTINCTIONS OF RACE OR COLOR.

4. SENGHOR NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT "WE ARE NEVER CONTENT WITH POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE--WITH NOMINAL INDEPENDENCE. EVEN THIS INDEPENDENCE CAN NOT BE COMPLETE "IF THE DEVELOPED STATES, PARTICULARLY THE GREAT EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN POWERS, CONTINUE TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN THE AFFAIRS OF AFRICAN STATES." HE CALLED THIS "THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM" CURRENTLY FACED BY AFRICA AND SAID THIS WAS WHY SENEGAL HAD ALWAYS URGED WESTERN AND EASTERN POWERS TO REACH AN ACCORD CONDEMNING INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF AFRICAN STATES. THIS, HE SAID, WAS SIGNIFICANCE OF RESOLUTION VOTED AT LIBREVILLE SUMMIT.

5. TURNING TO PROBLEMS OF "NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER," SENGHOR EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT, AT LONDON SUMMIT, PRESIDENT CARTER HAD GIVEN HIS ACCORD TO COMMON FUND, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 DAKAR 04980 230926Z

REMARKING THAT GESTURE PERMITTED GREAT HOPES. HE REPEATED HIS CUSTOMARY CALL FOR "NEW CULTURAL ORDER" AS WELL, SINCE ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES "HAVE ALWAYS BEEN JUSTIFIED BY ALLEGED CULTURAL INEQUALITIES."

6. SPEAKING OF TOURISM, INVESTMENT AND ASSISTANCE (PARTICULARLY IN CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL, WHERE US WAS A "DRIVING FORCE"), SENGHOR AGREED THAT AMERICAN-SENEGALESE COOPERATION "HAS DEVELOPED GREATLY IN RECENT YEARS." HE REITERATED REQUEST THAT USG ENCOURAGE PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN SENEGAL. HE NOTED THAT SENEGAL HAD ALWAYS BEGUN BY ASSISTING ITSELF BEFORE CALLING ON ITS FRIENDS FOR ASSISTANCE, AND SAID IT WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

7. SENGHOR CONCLUDED WITH REQUEST THAT AMBASSADOR CONVEY TO PRESIDENT CARTER HIS WISHES FOR HIS HEALTH AND FOR THAT OF HIS FAMILY, AND FOR THE PROSPERITY AND GOOD FORTUNE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

8. COMPLETE FRENCH TEXT BY POUCH. FURTHER COMMENTS ON PRIVATE EXCHANGES WITH SENGHOR AFTER CEREMONY FOLLOW SEPTELS.

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